

REMARKS

By this amendment, the limitation of claim 6 has been placed into independent claim 3, and new independent claim 8 contains the language from claim 7. Claims 6 and 7 have been canceled.

Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Utsumi ('267) on the grounds that it would provide Utsumi "with a wide array of call entry sequences." However, this runs counter to the teachings of the reference. The whole point of Utsumi is automated call-list "cleaning." Forcing a user to manually enter an abbreviated command or speak an abbreviated command would slow down Utsumi's process and would therefore not be an obvious modification. According to the '267 Patent:

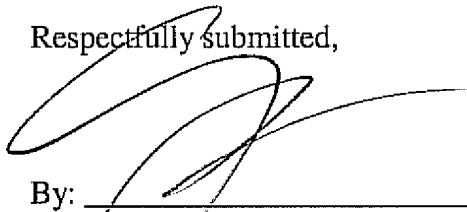
"A telephone number list to be cleaned is provided on a floppy disk recorded in a predetermined format. The floppy disk containing the telephone number list is set in the floppy disk drive 4 and a cleaning command is given by designating a list name through a keyboard 7. Then, *the CPU 1 reads out the designated telephone number list from the floppy disk and stores in the memory 2. Thereafter, the CPU 1 initiates execution of cleaning process shown in FIG. 2.*

"At first, respective telephone numbers are picked up from the telephone number list according to a predetermined order for transferring to the circuit control portion 9, and a call command is provided (step 100). By this action, call operation is performed by transmitting a dial signal of the telephone number to the public telephone network (step 101). Then, at step 102, waiting state is maintained for an appropriate period (corresponding to a time to actuate a local exchange). Thereafter, reaction of the line in response to the call is monitored by the signal discrimination circuit of the circuit control portion 9 through processes at step 103 and subsequent steps." ('267 Patent, 5:6-25, emphasis added)

Thus, after loading a floppy disk, the entire process of Utsumi is automated, with the CPU performing all of the steps. It does not make sense to interrupt this with a manual or spoken command. If the proposed modification or combination of the prior art would change the principle of operation of the prior art invention being modified, then the teachings of the references are not sufficient to render the claims *prima facie* obvious. *In re Ratti*, 270 F.2d 810, 123 USPQ 349 (CCPA 1959).

Based upon the foregoing amendments and comments, Applicants believe all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Questions regarding this application may be directed to the undersigned attorney by telephone, facsimile or electronic mail.

Respectfully submitted,



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